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Official voice of the Air Force Research Laboratory

## Chief of Materials branch named SME fellow

*by Fred Coleman, Materials and Manufacturing Directorate*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO — A leading materials research engineer and scientist at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Materials and Manufacturing Directorate recently became one of 225 individuals worldwide to be appointed "Fellow" in the 60,000 member Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME).

Dr. Steven R. LeClair of the directorate's Manufacturing Technology Division was honored for outstanding manufacturing research contributions that have strengthened national defense and enabled greater U.S. global competitiveness.

His work has had a profound impact on improving the quality of both polymer and ceramic composites for air and spacecraft structures, automation and control of deposition processes that extend the life of spacecraft, enabling cryogenic super-conducting turbo-electric power for advanced defense systems, and advanced semiconductors for future detector technologies.

LeClair has served as chief of the directorate's Manufacturing Technology Division's Materials Process Design Branch since 1990. His responsibilities include leading an Air Force Office of Scientific Research basic research task in developing advanced computational methods, leading a major in-house research program in materials processing and planning long-term processing research. For two decades, LeClair's leadership has helped provide a cutting edge for Air Force defense applications and national competitiveness in global markets. His efforts have led to major discoveries and fundamental breakthroughs in material process design and control methodology.

LeClair has earned national recognition as a member of the National Research Council's Materials Advisory Board and international recognition as an elected member of the International Federation of Information Processing committee on computer-aided manufacturing. He is also the researcher behind a nationally referenced field referred to as "Self-Directed Control" which has served to define Intelligent Materials Processing both in the United States and internationally.

Headquartered in Dearborn, Mich., SME is an international society dedicated to serving its members and the manufacturing community at large through the advancement of professionalism, knowledge and learning. Every year, the SME recognizes engineers and scientists for outstanding accomplishments in the field of manufacturing. LeClair was one of only five individuals to receive "Fellow" honors this year. @